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MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Restructuring of the National Intelligence Survey
(NIS) Program

REFERENCE: USIB-D-51.1/8, 28 August 1963

1. The NIS Committee recommends that publication of the remaining topical detailed sections be discontinued as part of the NIS Program and that emphasis and resources be directed toward production of a restructured General Survey, expanded on a highly selective basis by some of the more broadly useful material from the detailed sections.

Rationale

2. Gradual attrition of the detailed sections over the years has produced a melange of topical coverage (see attachment). Shifting requirements for basic intelligence, a more realistic appraisal of what the NIS Program can achieve, and dwindling resources have each played a role in eroding the original concept of worldwide, up-to-date, and well-integrated topical coverage. Discontinuance of topics was in each case agreed to only after careful consideration of identifiable user requirements and

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availability of alternative coverage, but it is now becoming evident that the cumulative effect of the attrition is a program lacking coherence and focus.

3. Although NIS programming has adhered to the USIB-approved NIS plan for country priorities, for many of the detailed sections still being produced area coverage has also been markedly curtailed due to reductions in resources. Transportation and Armed Forces sections, for example, are now being produced for only a few countries. The result is a disparate and confusing pattern of coverage.

4. User surveys have indicated that some of the more specialized detailed sections have quite limited, albeit steadfast, readership. Faltering interdepartmental interest in certain topics raises the question of their continued suitability in a national intelligence program. As conceptualized in the Reference, this specialized detailed basic intelligence was designed for the most part to meet specific military requirements which might be better served by DoD publications.

5. Continuing and increasing budgetary restrictions have taken and are taking heavy toll on the NIS Program. However, what remains can be made to meet important needs of national security by placing

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full emphasis on community production of a coordinated, high-quality, and broadly based General Survey. The production, structure, and organization of the new General Survey would utilize the remaining resources better than the present disparate program and, in addition, would retain the interagency framework needed to meet any future requirements for an expanded national basic intelligence effort.

Plan

6. Programmed production of the topical detailed sections would be discontinued by the end of FY 72.

7. The General Survey, slightly expanded and restructured in a bound-by-chapter format, would become the body of the program. In addition to providing greater efficiency and flexibility in maintenance, the new format will enable the NIS to selectively incorporate into the appropriate chapters -- or as separate annexes -- some of the more widely useful data now contained in the detailed sections. This will apply particularly to DoD-produced information.

8. The Basic Intelligence Factbook would continue to be published semiannually in both the classified and unclassified versions.

9. The special NIS on oceanography would be continued for another year pending the completion of an assessment of interagency requirements in this field.

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Impact

10. Total elimination of the remaining detailed sections would reduce significantly the overall NIS Program. Some of the manpower savings implicit in the cutback would have to be redirected to implementing the production of the enhanced General Survey. Precise figures on potential money and manpower savings can not yet be determined, but it is apparent that reduction already imposed on the NIS effort, or now in process, will reduce the number of production units by 25% from FY72 levels.

11. The NIS Committee invites the Board's attention to the concomitant reduction in departmentally published basic intelligence formerly available to supplement the NIS. In some cases, the losses sustained have impinged on the same geographic and subject areas as those affected by reductions in the NIS Program. The necessary concentration of community effort on certain priority areas and topics, as a direct consequence of manpower and budget cuts, is certain to reduce community research capabilities and production on low priority areas, especially Latin America, Africa south of the Sahara, and certain countries of West Europe.

Action Requested

12. The NIS Committee requests that USIB approve the plan to discontinue production of NIS topical detailed sections by the end

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of FY 72 and to integrate on a selective basis broadly useful material from those sections, as appropriate, into the new General Survey.

JOHN KERRY KING
Chairman, NIS Committee

Attachment:
Attrition of NIS Detailed Sections

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ATTRITION OF NIS DETAILED SECTIONS

	to 1960	1961-64	1965-68	1969-72
Introduction.....	1			
Military Geogr. Regions.....	2			
Coasts & Landing Beaches.....	3			
Weather & Climate.....	4			
Topography.....	5			
Urban Areas.....	6			
Introduction.....	7			
Railroads.....	8			
Highways.....	9			
Inland Waterways.....	10			
Ports & Naval Facilities.....	11			
Merchant Marine.....	12			
Civil Air.....	13			
Telecommunications.....	14			
Introduction.....	15			
Population.....	16			
Character. of the People.....	17			
Relig., Educ., Pub. Info.....	18			
Manpower.....	19			
Health & Sanitation.....	20			
Welfare.....	21			
Introduction.....	22			
Constitutional System.....	23			
Structure of the Govt.....	24			
Political Dynamics.....	25			
Public Order & Safety.....	26			
National Policies.....	27			
Intelligence & Security.....	28			
Subversion & Insurgency.....	29			
Propaganda.....	30			
Key Personalities.....	31			
Introduction.....	32			
Agr., Fisheries, Forestry.....	33			
Fuels & Power.....	34			
Minerals & Metals.....	35			
Manufacturing & Construction.....	36			
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Introduction.....	38			
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Air, Ground, Naval Weapons.....	40			
Atomic Energy.....	41			
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Chemical Warfare.....	43			
Phy.Sci., Math., Medicine.....	44			
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Ground Forces.....	46			
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Air Forces.....	48			
Map & Chart Appraisal.....	IX			
Ports & Naval Facilities.....	Supp. I			
Coasts & Landing Beaches.....	Supp. II			
Telecommunications.....	Supp. III			
Petroleum.....	Supp. V			
Communism.....	Supp. VI			
International Communism.....	108			
Marine Climate.....	1			
Oceanography.....	2			
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